

passed in the legislative session in 1967. I believe that is correct.

It would simply establish the principle that if you are a citizen, if you are a qualified voter in Maryland, and you move from one legislative district to another, if the registration books are open, you will have a right to register at the area of your new residence even though you have lived there less than three months.

Now, it certainly seems logical that you should vote at your point of residence, if you have moved into a new area, if that is where your future life is going to be. Does it make any sense that you should of necessity go back to your old residence and vote in an area, possibly on bond issues, in the place you have actually abandoned as your residence?

The secondary reason is from the standpoint of administration of the election laws. There is great confusion where there is a transfer at approximately election time.

A secondary reason is that where there is a transfer of voting around election time, especially when the transfer is obtained just before a three-month period, there is a removal from the books at the point of transfer and then—speaking of a registration in the new area after three months started—there is a great likelihood that you cannot vote in the new point of residence. You cannot vote in the old point of residence because your name has been removed from the registration books.

This is a change recommended by the Association of Supervisors of Elections and is a practical one, sound in principle, in my opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, I would like to make one or two remarks and then, if I might, yield to Delegate Rybczynski who was Chairman of the subcommittee. First of all, the number involved here is quite small, in terms of the voters who find themselves in this position.

Secondly, I think that what you are doing here is tying a constitutional provision to a legislative act.

The dates for registration are within the power of the General Assembly to establish, and it is conceivable with all the modern equipment that we are hearing about, that the process of registration and the need for closing the books might set

the date for closing registration at three days or four days before the election.

At this point, if I may, I would like to yield to Delegate Rybczynski.

THE CHAIRMAN: You cannot yield until somebody else has spoken. Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment? If not, the Chair recognizes Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, we studied their problem very carefully and we went a little further than Delegate James in our reasoning. We find that persons who are voting should be given some opportunity to become familiar with their candidates and anything less than three months almost seems ridiculous as a time to give people in which to know who their candidates are, who the better candidates are for whom they should be voting.

Please keep in mind this denies the vote to no one. As was pointed out by Delegate James, people can go back to their old district to vote so no one is denied a vote.

There was also the other thing that troubled us terribly, particularly now with the single-member districts. In anticipation of that we studied this matter. Should a group decide to register promptly within a single member district, they could very well control, or at least swing a vote, without anyone knowing, and possibly be in a position to carry a delegate or a senator. Please keep in mind that people can vote unless specifically challenged. As long as they are on the books, no one challenges whether they live in the district or not. They can vote and cause a swing in the election.

For all these reasons, and we considered everything, we do honestly believe that the three-month provision is a good one and it should stay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Mr. Chairman, will Delegate James yield for a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James?

DELEGATE JAMES: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Delegate James, would you be willing to change the time for closing registration to thirty days prior to the election, which I understand is the county deadline in at least eight states.